

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel head position controlling apparatus comprising:

a multi-channel head including a plurality of unit recording heads arranged ~~integrally~~ with a predetermined spacing so as to have head gaps of said unit recording heads aligned with one another, said multi-channel head forming a plurality of multi-linear recording tracks on a tape-like recording medium;

a supporting section for supporting said multi-channel head so as to contact ~~with~~ said tape-like recording medium upon forming an azimuth angle relative to the running direction of said tape-like recording medium ~~in which an alignment direction of said unit recording heads crosses said tape-like recording medium at a slant angle~~, and making said azimuth angle variable;

a separate detecting section disposed a pre-determined distance from said multi-channel head in the direction opposite the running direction of said tape-like recording medium for detecting a deviation between a reproducing level of a control record which is previously recorded on said multi-linear recording tracks and a reference level; and

a displacement control section for controlling displacement of said supporting section and varying said azimuth angle so as to minimize said deviation, ~~according to said deviation.~~

2. (Original) The multi-channel head position controlling apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said detecting section detects deviation between a reproducing level of said multi-linear recording tracks at both ends of said tape-like recording medium and a reference level.

3. (Currently Amended) The multi-channel head position controlling apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said displacement control section controls said supporting section so as to make said supporting section tilt centered on ~~unit recording heads located around~~ a central portion amongst said unit recording heads forming said multi-channel head.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a position of a multi-channel head comprising steps of:

constructing a multi-channel head including a plurality of unit recording heads arranged ~~integrally~~ with a predetermined spacing so as to have head gaps of said unit recording heads aligned with one another, said multi-channel head forming a plurality of multi-linear recording tracks on a tape-like recording medium;

arranging said multi-channel head so as to contact ~~with~~ said tape-like recording medium ~~upon forming~~ at an azimuth angle relative to the running direction of said tape-like recording medium ~~in which an alignment direction of said unit recording heads crosses said tape-like recording medium at a slant angle~~, and making said azimuth angle variable;

detecting a deviation between a reproducing level of a control record which is previously recorded on said multi-linear recording tracks and a reference level via a separate detecting section disposed a pre-determined distance from said multi-channel head in the direction opposite the running direction of said tape-like recording medium; and

controlling displacement of said supporting section and varying said azimuth angle so as to minimize said deviation, ~~according to said deviation.~~

Please add the following new claims:

5. (New) A multi-channel head position controlling apparatus comprising:

a multi-channel head including a plurality of unit recording heads arranged with a predetermined spacing so as to have head gaps of said unit recording heads aligned with one another, said multi-channel head forming a plurality of multi-linear recording tracks on a tape-like recording medium;

a supporting section for supporting said multi-channel head so as to contact said tape-like recording medium upon forming an azimuth angle relative to the running direction of said tape-like recording medium, and making said azimuth angle variable;

a detecting section for detecting a deviation between a reproducing level of a control record which is previously recorded on said multi-linear recording tracks and a reference level, wherein said control record is comprised of at least three tracks; and

a displacement control section for controlling displacement of said supporting section and varying said azimuth angle so as to minimize said deviation.

6. (New) A multi-channel head position controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein said control record takes up all available tracks on a pre-determined amount of said tape-like recording medium at a beginning portion of the tape.

7. (New) A method for controlling a position of a multi-channel head comprising steps of:

constructing a multi-channel head including a plurality of unit recording heads arranged with a predetermined spacing so as to have head gaps of said unit recording heads aligned with one another, said multi-channel head forming a plurality of multi-linear recording tracks on a tape-like recording medium;

arranging said multi-channel head so as to contact with said tape-like recording medium upon forming an azimuth angle relative to the running direction of said tape-like recording medium, and making said azimuth angle variable;

detecting a deviation between a reproducing level of a control record which is previously recorded on said multi-linear recording tracks and a reference level, wherein said control record is comprised of at least three tracks; and

controlling displacement of said supporting section and varying said azimuth angle so as to minimize said deviation.

8. (New) A method for controlling a position of a multi-channel head as set forth in claim 7, wherein said control record takes up all available tracks on a pre-determined amount of said tape-like recording medium at a beginning portion of the tape.